

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## World Changers nailing it down in Miss.

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

SINCE 1877

AUG 8, 2002

VOL. 126

NO. 26



**UP ON THE ROOF** — Students and adult leaders brave heat and height as they replace a roof during the World Changers project in Jackson on July 20-27. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

While many teenagers spent their summer sleeping in, hanging out at the pool, or flipping burgers, there was one group of students who paid their own way to leave home and spend a week or so doing what most would consider hard labor.

They are World Changers, a volunteer mobilization ministry of the North American Mission Board. After 11 years of

This year, World Changers served at three projects in Mississippi: Natchez, June 29-July 6; Meridian, July 13-20; and Jackson, July 20-27.

Students participating at the project in Jackson faced heavy rains on the first day of service, but the balance of the week was typical Mississippi weather — hot, humid, and oppressive.

The students seemed to take the weather in stride. Adelaide Costillo, a student from First Church, Corsicana, Tex., offered typical comments. "This is my fourth year serving with World Changers," Adelaide said, "and my third year working as a roofer. Yep, it's pretty hot, but you get used to it— sort of."

Another student, Anastasia Reynolds from Austin, Tex., climbed out of a dumpster and surveyed the work site. This particular team was roofing and painting a simple white frame house in south Jackson. "This is my second year. Last year, we were in Shreveport, La. With World Changers, not only do you get the chance to go outside your comfort zone, you get to live out your beliefs and help others in the process."

Her partner in the dumpster, Kim Pruitt, also of Austin, agreed. "This is a life changing opportunity," she said. "It's not every day you get to make a difference like this. Plus, you get to meet new folks, and you get to serve the Lord with all your heart. Your actions are a sermon to those around you."

Randy Dees of Kilmichael, was crew chief on this particular project. "My job is



**CLEANUP DUTY** — Anastasia Reynolds (left), and Kim Pruitt, both of Austin, Tex., dispose of old roofing and siding debris from the home on which their World Changers team worked in a south Jackson neighborhood on July 20-27. (BP photo by Tony Martin)

just to instruct the kids on what to do and make sure they do it safely," Dees said. "They learn to use power saws, drills, and other tools. They learn how to measure — basically, they learn the fundamentals of carpentry. They learn quick."

When World Changers began in 1990 the goal was to change the approach toward mission education, to get students out of the classroom and into a hands-on mission experience. The focus was to change the life of the participants by giving them an opportunity to change someone else's world.

That focus is still true today. Even though World Changers has become a strategic plan to eliminate substandard housing for many communities, the focus is still changing the world of the participants by giving them a hands-on mission experience.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Organize Sunday School

Directions

TruthQuest kicks off

Sunday school lessons

### Miss. CP shows increase

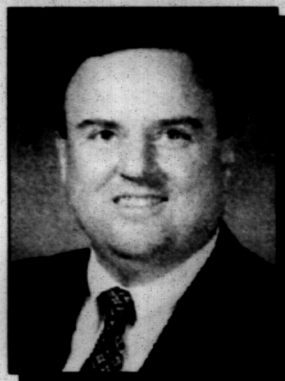
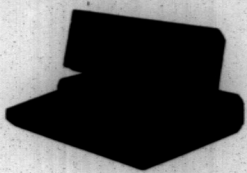
Mississippi Baptists gave \$2,926,882 in the month of July to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP), according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the CP funds. The July amount came within just a few thousand dollars of surpassing three million dollars for only the fourth time in Mississippi CP history. The July total was 43.21% more than the previous month's total of \$2,043,713, and 27.92% more than the \$2,288,033 given in July 2001. Giving is up 4.74% over the same January-July period last year, buoyed by the all-time CP giving record in January of \$3,389,338. February, March, and June fell below the \$2,543,558 needed each month to meet the record 2002 CP budget of \$30,522,692 set by messengers to the 2001 annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. However, giving in January, April, May, and July has kept CP on track for meeting budget. Mississippi CP funds such programs as the Pastors and Wives Conference August 9-10 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian; the Sunday School/Discipleship Training Director Conference July 13 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko; and the Preschool/Children's Choir Clinic at First Church, Hattiesburg.

### SBC CP up in July

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) in July were 5.6% above gifts for July 2001, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. Year-to-date support for CP Missions is 4.07% ahead of totals at this same point last year. July's \$13,508,566.54 in CP gifts to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America compared to \$12,792,018.34 in July 2001, a difference of \$716,548.20. Designated gifts of \$5,392,613.50 in July, meanwhile, were 29.68% below July 2001's \$7,668,529.83, a decrease of \$2,275,916.33. In year-to-date CP giving, \$151,958,332.85 has been received, compared with \$146,014,641.04 in 2000-01, an increase of 4.07% or \$5,943,691.81. In year-to-date designated giving, \$163,006,264.07 has been received, compared with \$161,076,127.85, an increase of 1.2% or \$1,930,136.22. The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the July receipts of \$13,508,566.54 were 90.92% of the budgeted \$14,858,239.92, or \$1,349,673.38 below the budget goal. The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowship.



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**Postmaster: Send changes of address  
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800  
Fax: (601) 292-3330  
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VOLUME 126 NUMBER 23  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —  
one calendar week prior to requested pub-  
lication date. Advertising — two calendar  
weeks prior to requested publication date.

# An anniversary report card

In case you missed it, this week marked the ten-year anniversary of legalized gambling in Mississippi. Curiously, there were no celebrations in the state's glittering palaces of fortune nor casino-sponsored parades down the Main Streets of the towns to which gamblers have laid claim.

Except for a few news media outlets that duly noted the anniversary almost as an aside, there were no observances of this auspicious milestone in Mississippi history. Why was that the case?

After all, this is a state that commemorates Confederate Memorial Day and the birthdays of both Robert E. Lee and Martin Luther King Jr. Historical markers dot the state from end to end, and even the highways are solemnly named after important people.

We Mississippians like remembering the past, no matter how far back (or backward) it takes us. For the most part we're proud of our past, even the embarrassing chapters.

That is also what makes this whole low-key gambling anniversary thing so mysterious. For something that has allegedly brought so much fun, fame, and fortune to the poorest state in the union, it seems odd that such an observance could be overlooked.

It's almost like the student with sub-par grades who hopes his parents will forget it's report card time, or at least will sign the report card without really looking at it. That way, maybe he can squeeze by a little longer without his real situation being discovered.

Is that what the gambling/political complex is up to in Mississippi? Let's check their ten-year report card and see for ourselves.

When gambling was being touted ten years ago as the panacea for all the state's ills, that mythic term, "education," was once again touted as the main benefactor of legalized gambling (just like alcohol many years before). If only we had legalized gambling, many of our legislators and state officials told us, school children would never

want for anything ever again. New school houses, new textbooks, new athletic facilities, more teachers — they could all be ours if only we had legalized gambling. With legalized gambling, we could be on our way to the top of the educational ladder!

The truth, however, has been totally different. Just last year, school districts across the state were considering four-day weeks due to cutbacks in state education funds. Some of those districts weren't sure how they would keep buses on the roads, even for a shortened four-day week.

Many schools have had to consider cutting music programs and athletics — "luxury" items where school boards are struggling with state funding cutbacks. County supervisors and city officials are being forced to look at local tax increases to make up for the state's grudging negligence.

All of this while the state took in more than \$320 million in taxes last year on \$2.7 billion in casino gambling revenue. We were hoodwinked by our political leaders and their supporters in the ranks of gamblers. It's no secret that a gambling/political complex has arisen to keep the truth from us.

Maybe the people are beginning to wake up, however. During an informal man-on-the-street series of interviews on the August 4 edition of WLBT-TV's evening news in Jackson, the reporter apparently couldn't find a single person who was happy with legalized gambling's tenth anniversary.

"I'M GLAD I HAVE A NEW  
HEART — MY OLD ONE COULDN'T  
TAKE THIS!"



"I really don't feel it's benefited the state at all. Seems to have (caused) a lot of problems with education. We seem to be building more casinos than schools," said one of the men interviewed.

"I really don't understand why we have such a shortage of funds in the state. We have all this casino gambling money. Where is it?" asked another man.

In the final interview, a woman observed, "I've yet to see any improvements by the gambling in Mississippi. I think it has hurt us."

All in all, a mighty poor report card. Legislators, are you listening?

Many people think that the film critic's job consists of nothing more than watching movies while eating Jujubes. All he really needs is the ability to form simple declarative sentences and a pillowy posterior.

Well, I'll admit that it is easier commenting on the art of film than it is creating it, but it's not always that simple to assemble those declarative sentences while avoiding the development of a pillowy posterior.

Confection treats aside, the reason I review films comes down to this: I love what a good movie can do. It can uplift, nurture or just take your mind off the troubles of the day. A good film is a parable that teaches while it entertains. I love finding the good ones.

In Ecc. 3 we are told that there is a time to laugh and a time to dance. I believe that means entertainment is an elemental part of life, but when I began reviewing films from a Christian perspective 15 years ago, it quickly became apparent that the content of a film was becoming as weighty as its artistic and technical elements.

In Psalm 101, David states, "I will set before my eyes no vile thing." I would suggest, then, that the key words to keep in

## GUEST OPINION:



*Ah, the life of  
a film critic*

*By Philip Boatwright  
Thousand Oaks, Calif.*

mind when movie hunting, as in any aspect of living, is to use discretion and discernment.

By providing parents and concerned moviegoers with the synopsis and content of new films, I'm attempting to furnish a tool that helps them make informed choices. The bottom line of my work is to remind my readers that truth is always found in God's Word, while seldom in Hollywood's product.

Since I suggest video alternatives to the new releases, a question soon crops up, "Where can we find the video alternatives?" These video suggestions contain the same theme or style, but lack the objectionable content of newer films. Although they are generally superior to those now showing in theaters, sometimes these alternatives can be difficult to locate.

Just in case you're wondering the same thing, let me take this opportunity to recommend a couple of places where you can find quality videos. When looking online for films with moral or religious themes, check out [www.crownvideo.com](http://www.crownvideo.com).

Crown Video is a Christian distribution company with a mandate to deliver high-quality video and DVD products that promote a Judeo-Christian worldview. They offer more than 1,200 titles, with access to hundreds more.

Another interesting video outlet is of a more secular nature, but a great place to find classics that may be hard to find elsewhere. Eddie Brandt's Saturday Matinee is a little hole-in-the-wall treasure trove, with more than 60,000 titles on hand.

They have everything, including silent films, foreign films, documentaries, and thousands of vintage TV shows. Eddie Brandt's Saturday Matinee will ship rentals to anywhere in the country. For more information or to order a catalog, call them at (818) 506-4242.

The motion picture industry has an enormous impact on our society. And even those who do not attend the cinema or own a television are finding that the media affects them as well. There is a need for a Christian examination of Hollywood fare, and someone should always point out what the film industry award ceremonies fail to do — that content (the reason for the rating) has become as defining a factor in moviemaking as the technical and artistic aspects.

So, okay, I'll admit, it beats working — but after 15 years of being asked what I think of A Beautiful Mind or Scooby-Doo, I remain convinced that I do what I'm supposed to do.

Philip Boatwright reviews films from a Christian perspective and authors a column for Baptist Press. For more information about his service, go to [www.moviereporter.com](http://www.moviereporter.com).



# Panel: 'neotribal' approach needed in U.S.

ATLANTA (BP) — Ethnic and language categories are no longer adequate for reaching the diversity of the cities, a church-planting researcher with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB) said, describing an emerging understanding of "neotribal" groups that tend to cluster based on culture, values, and attitudes.

Curt Watke, resourcing preparedness associate for NAMB's church planting group, was among the speakers addressing the theme, Making a Difference in Urban Contexts, with state church planting, evangelism, and media leaders at NAMB's July 28-31 Summer State Leadership Conference in Atlanta. Other speakers included Charles Van Engen, a Fuller Theological Seminary professor who spoke on the spiritual realities of urban communities, and John Ogletree, a Houston pastor who addressed the influence of politics and economics on work in the cities.

Watke shared details of his research both on how different groups respond to the gospel and how to best approach planting indigenous churches among them. The information — part of the work of a NAMB-coordinated Urbanization and Mission Strategy Task Force — is being made available beginning this month at NAMB's Internet resource for church planters, [www.churchplantingvillage.net](http://www.churchplantingvillage.net).

"Aren't you glad that all believers do not have to look like you, act like and think like you?" Watke asked. "God is much bigger than all that. The issue is that we have to teach people how to design specific

messages and ministries in order to reach specific people."

Watke recounted participating in a limited "windshield" survey of a community within Kansas City early in his research. It was an area that had been described as including "artsy intelligentsia, yuppie high income, homosexuals, African American low-income, and retired Anglo Americans."

While the research was helpful, he considered how much more helpful it would be to be able to share that information with other church planters trying to reach the same groups.

He also realized a standardized language for categorizing the groups of people was essential.

In further research based on existing sociological studies, for instance, he determined that two of the groups in the Kansas City neighborhood — homosexuals and "artsy intelligentsia" — could be classified under a neotribal category called "Bohemian mix."

"We began to understand that in order for us to move this forward, we are ultimately going to have to create people group profiles," he said. "We differentiate based on culture. We connect ministry programming in context, helping us determine which ministry approaches to use."

In one of the first research efforts of his work, the "Bohemian Mix" people group was found to be "dominated by mobile, highly educated singles — including an eclectic group

of executives, students, artists, and writers who prefer to live in rented high-rises."

Ultimately, while several churches have ministries to this group, there are no truly indigenous Southern Baptist congregations — and 377 new churches are needed, Watke said. Further research pinpointed what types of church planters would be most effective in such contexts, and some of the characteristics of such a church.

"The point is this," Watke said: "This research said that what we have to do is we have to be able to help people identify groups of people that are culturally similar, map them so we know where they are, identify where we need churches planted among them, go out and talk to them, index our learnings, and network people so they can learn from each other."

It was the "go out and talk to them" part of the challenge that was addressed largely by Van Engen, a professor of biblical theology of mission at Fuller in Pasadena, Calif. He stressed the importance of "listening to the stories and seeing the faces" as the best way of humanizing the masses that make up the cities.

"If we don't know the faces and the names, we haven't taken the first step of reaching the cities," he said.

Van Engen told a story of one man in Los Angeles who became "the pen man" — selling pens on the streets and in business — as a way of getting to know the people.

In one of his encounters the man took the time to not only give a pen to a homeless man, but to talk to him, encourage him to use the pen to write his estranged family members, and ultimately to explain the love of Jesus. The man accepted Christ,

was reconciled with his wife, found a job, and even began teaching Sunday School.

"In mission in the city, even a pen can make a difference, and every life of every believer in your congregation can make a difference in the city," Van Engen said. "If we're in mission in the city, we need to see the faces and the names of the people, and then get involved in their lives."

For John Ogletree, pastor of First Metropolitan Church of Houston, the realities of race, poverty, and economics in the city also provide their own set



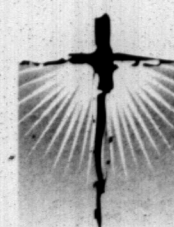
Watke



Van Engen



Ogletree



MISSISSIPPI  
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THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

AUGUST 8, 2002

VOL. 126

No. 26

## LifeWay best sellers

### HARDBACK

1. Wild at Heart, John Eldredge (Nelson)
2. Prisoners of Hope, Dayna Curry & Heather Mercer et al. (Waterbrook)
3. Bringing Up Boys, James Dobson (Tyndale)
4. When Godly People Do Ungodly Things, Beth Moore (Broadman & Holman of LifeWay)
5. Praying God's Word, Beth Moore (B&H)
6. Racing to Win, Joe Gibbs & Ken Abraham (Multnomah)
7. Traveling Light, Max Lucado (Nelson)
8. Paul Great Lives Vol. 6, Charles Swindoll (Nelson)
9. Prayer of Jabez for Women, Bruce Wilkinson (Multnomah)
10. Night Light, James & Shirley Dobson (Multnomah)

### PAPERBACK

1. Power of a Praying Wife, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)
2. Power of a Praying Husband, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)
3. Five Love Languages, Gary Chapman (Moody Press)
4. Praying God's Will for Your Life, Stormie Omartian (Nelson)
5. Power of a Praying Parent, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)
6. Sacred Romance, Brent Curtis & John Eldredge (Nelson)
7. Power of a Positive Mom, Karol Ladd (Howard)
8. Bad Girls of the Bible, Liz Curtis Higgs (Waterbrook)
9. Case for Christ, Lee Strobel (Zondervan)
10. Case for Faith, Lee Strobel (Zondervan)

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Two Mississippi Baptist pastors — Jimmy Yarbrough of Monticello and Darryl Petry of New Hebron — are killed in an automobile accident returning to their homes following revival services at Jayess Church in Lawrence Association.

### 20 years ago

Clarke College in Newton, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist convention, opens its doors to new and transfer students for its 74th session in Newton. According to college officials, "there has never been a brighter time in the history of the school."

### 50 years ago

The Woman's Missionary Union of Prentiss Church, Prentiss, sponsors Vacation Bible Schools in two negro churches in Jefferson Davis County. At Prentiss Church, average attendance is 71; at South Pleasant Hill Church, average attendance is 88.



## U.N. treaty approval draws ire

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee has approved a United Nations-sponsored international treaty that critics charge could remove all restrictions on abortion, open the family and church to invasive scrutiny, and undercut the authority of federal and state governments: the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The full Senate may vote on the treaty as early as September. Leaders of 10 pro-family organizations have urged the Bush White House to revoke former President Jimmy Carter's 1980 approval of the treaty. Among them was Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "Seldom has a piece of legislation been designed to be more devastating to the American people's sovereignty over their own affairs than this infamous relic of 1970s radically rabid feminism. This treaty would give unelected, international bureaucrats at the United Nations authority to attempt to contravene American laws and decisions by the United States Supreme Court," Land said.

"There can be no doubt that CEDAW supporters are attempting to use this treaty to advance a radical abortion agenda," said Republican Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas, a Foreign Relations Committee member who voted against the treaty.

The National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action and the National Organization for Women are among the organizations that have endorsed CEDAW.

# Jolley: organize Sunday School, don't wait

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — "Trying to organize a Sunday School can be like trying to organize a group of firefighters," Belinda Jolley said. "If you wait too long, the house will burn down."

Jolley, associate director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention's Sunday School department, led a conference on mobilizing for ministry during the July 26-28 National Sunday School Leadership week at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina.

Sunday Schools should be organized in such a way that members and prospects don't slip through the cracks and leaders don't get burned out, Jolley said.

Thus, she said, Sunday Schools should:

- Organize small ministry groups. "Large groups easily get out of hand," Jolley said. Teachers can't maintain contact with a group that is too big, and they quickly grow discouraged.

- "Care groups should contain five to seven people. That way, it's very feasible for the leader of the group to make a personal contact with each person without feeling overwhelmed."

- Organize by gender. More and more churches are using mentoring and accountability groups, which can become awkward if there are mixed genders, Jolley noted. "Sharing is different when it is woman to woman or man to man," she said. "Separating men and women also protects the reputations of the [group] leader and the church."

- Include members-in-service. "Many members-in-service [members of your Sunday School class who teach another



PREPARING FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL — Belinda Jolley (standing) of the South Carolina Baptist Convention leads a Mobilizing for Ministry conference during National Sunday School Leadership Training week at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

class] are never contacted by their class," Jolley said. "If they stop teaching and haven't had any contact with their class for years, it is very likely they will just stop coming to Sunday School at all." Because of this, Jolley recommended that members-in-service be placed in care groups and contacted as frequently as other members.

- Contact members weekly. "Every member of your care group should be contacted in some form or fashion each week," Jolley said. That weekly contact may take place at church, but Jolley recommended that leaders not take for granted members who are

there every week. "It's so important to express your appreciation to those who are always there," she said. "Make personal visits to them. You can learn a lot about a person by visiting them in their homes instead of just seeing them at Sunday School every week."

- Participate in mission projects. Because Sunday School often runs the risk of being inward-focused, Jolley recommended that groups seek out opportunities outside of church in their community.

"These mission projects can be a natural outgrowth of your Bible study," Jolley said.

"Timing is critical, and it is important to strike while the iron is hot."

- Make short but frequent contacts. While weekly contacts can seem daunting for a leader, Jolley recommended these visits be very brief.

"You as a leader don't have a lot of time to make extended visits, and the members of your class probably have things to do as well besides entertaining you," Jolley said.

"Sometimes even something as quick as a 'Buggy Bumper' contact is great. You bump into somebody at the grocery store, talk for a few moments, and you have made your visit," she pointed out.

- Know what to say. "You don't have to have an entire speech planned for your visits, but you should at least know what you're going to talk about," Jolley said. "It's awkward for both of you if you're just standing around staring at the ceiling. Know ahead some questions and topics you want to discuss with the person you're visiting."

- Conduct a high contact Sunday. Many churches have high attendance Sundays, but Jolley encouraged setting goals for contacts as well. "We know if we have a weekend fellowship where we've made a lot of contacts we're going to have more people at Sunday School. Make sure you contact everyone, not just chronic absentees. Also be sure to follow up on prospects."

The National Sunday School Leadership event at Ridgecrest is sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. For more information about this and other conferences, go to [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

## Crisis communication to be subject of conference

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A gunman entered Wedgwood Church in Ft. Worth on Sept. 15, 1999, and killed seven people within minutes. Pastor Al Meredith was then thrust in front of the national spotlight and asked why God allowed the tragedy to occur. He also was asked how his church would respond.

All ministers should be prepared to deal with tragedies like the one that affected his church, Meredith said. "Crisis in ministry is like the Second Coming. When it happens you'd better be ready because you won't have time to get ready."

Meredith will offer insights into his experiences with the media in the wake of the shooting at a conference entitled, Crisis Communication for Ministers, September 20-21, at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

Gary Morey, a former Air Force public relations officer and part-time announcer at KCBT Christian radio, organized the conference. Morey is a student at the seminary.

"All corporations hire public relations people and place a lot of importance on it, but it seems like our churches never did, whether they be Protestant or Catholic," Morey said. "I want to educate pastors on simple things — how to appear on television and how to respond when a reporter shows up at your door." The conference, he said,

may be the only one of its kind because it is Christian-oriented and inexpensive.

"I haven't seen anyone else doing this anywhere else in the country," he said. "I haven't seen anyone taking pastors aside and teaching them what corporations are teaching their spokesmen everyday."

"You could always go to a public relations agency and get this kind of training, but they will charge you thousands of dollars for it."

The conference is part of the seminary's effort to provide continuing education for ministers, according to David Porter, Southwestern's director of public relations.

"Southwestern wants to be the source of continuing education for ministers, especially in a day and age when ministers might be confronted with crisis," Porter said. "Crises like those that took place at Wedgwood and the recent Metro Church bus tragedy have the potential to harm churches."

"We hope that the training we provide will lead churches in the opposite direction — working through the tragedy, praising God in the midst of suffering and sharing our hope with the media and the world."

Other guest speakers will include Larry Ross of Larry Ross and Associates; Rick Ericson of the Lemaster Group; Gary Ledbetter of Southern Baptists of Texas

Convention; Becky Bridges of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Carolyn Stevens of the United Methodist Church.

Porter, who teaches public relations in the local church in Southwestern's communication degree program, also will speak. The conference will feature a panel discussion with local media personalities.

Conference participants will examine potential crisis points in the local church, crisis management do's and don'ts, managing bad news, media training, and how to use holidays and days of remembrance, such as Sept. 11, to increase the visibility of the ministries in the local church.

"We are going to show them how they can take advantage of all types of holidays from Easter to Halloween, but Easter especially," Morey said. "Because pastors don't have relationships with the media, the media will cover the local Easter egg hunt but they won't cover the great things at the local church."

"Sept. 11 is another day that from now on will be remembered — perhaps even with church services. The church isn't approaching the media about days like that and we want to change that."

For more information or to register, contact the Center for Leadership Development at (877) 474-4769.



# Long-running Jesus film reaches milestone

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (BP) — Long the most translated film in history, the Jesus film has passed a new milestone — viewership exceeding five billion people. Translated and distributed internationally by the Jesus Film Project, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International, it has been viewed in every country of the world. As of July 1, the viewing audience numbered 5,164,836,643.

The job, however, is not yet done, said Paul Eshleman, director of the Jesus Film Project. "We fully realize that while some may have viewed the Jesus film more than once, others still have not had the opportunity or they have not yet seen it in a language version that communicates clearly to them. Because of this, we are continuing to work with many denominations and mission agencies to make sure the film is shown in every geographic area.

"We also will continue to translate the film, so that people can encounter the life and message of Jesus Christ in the language they know and relate to best," Eshleman said.

Since its release in late 1979, the Jesus film has been translated into 743 languages and shown in 236 countries, territories, and protectorates. In addition, an audio version of the film, "The Story of Jesus," is available in 226 of the 743 languages and 15 others.

Over the years, 1,529 mission agencies and denominations have used the film, along with the current 2,756 Jesus film teams. Southern Baptists continue to be the largest global distributors of the film through the convention's International Mission Board (IMB), based in Richmond, Va. In fact, their distribution efforts are so widespread that the mission agency is "unable to keep track of the incredible quantities and creative variety of Jesus film uses," reported Mark Snowden, IMB overseas communications director.

"In many places we widely distribute the movie in the marketplace, tourist destinations, or to seamen in strategic ports," Snowden said. "In other places, a multiple-language DVD is quietly handed to a seeker who encounters a believer. We also have distributed the Jesus film in a special audio format on radio and cassette."

The IMB has partnered with the Jesus Film Project to train six missionaries as recordists for new dubbed translations of the film. IMB strategists also have been working with project leaders to develop follow-up training, based on chronological Bible storying, to use among new believers who are non-literate.

The Luke Partnership, a joint effort of the Jesus Film Project, Wycliffe Bible Translators,



and IMB, seeks to use the Gospel of Luke in a non-written form to spur church planting among oral peoples who have yet to hear the gospel in their own languages.

The film project was spurred by Campus Crusade founder Bill Bright's vision for an appealing biblically accurate film about the life of Christ.

**SETTING THE STAGE** — Southern Baptist missionaries Sam Jones (center) and his wife Rosalie (left), aided by volunteer Jeff Williams set up a screen for a 'Jesus' film showing in a village in Honduras. The film has become an integral part of the ministry of the Joneses — and hundreds of other Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide. (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

## DRESS CODE

School was barely out for the summer when discussions began and articles were written concerning school dress codes for the next fall. In July, the Tampa School District voted on a new policy that prohibits students from wearing pajamas to school. Guys and gals wearing PJ's to class had gotten out of hand. This is a topic that creates a lot of conversation and clearly not everyone sees things alike. Some schools have gone to uniforms and thereby, in theory, everyone is to dress and look alike. Other schools have policies that outline how long your hair can be, how low your pants can ride, and how high your skirt can rise. As parents, school administrators, and teachers know, it is not easy being part-time "clothes police."

Dress styles can be a problem, but beyond that there are issues related to tattoos, body piercing, chains, collars, and other attractive jewelry. At school these issues are a struggle because they tamper with self-expression. There is another problem that school folks have discovered and that is that there is a correlation between the way kids dress and the way they perform academically. So, depending upon what school you visit, you can find anything from what appears to be the arrival of the Marines to "Britney Spears goes back to school."

For thousands of years fashion has ebbed and flowed, changed, and come and gone. What has taken place in schools and the business arena has also visited the church. In some congregations, it is a bigger deal than in others. In some churches, what used to be referred to as "church clothes" meant to be about as dressed up as you could get. In other churches today, it means



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

just as casual as you would like to be. In wrestling with this issue for some years now, the business world has moved to having days that are called "Business Casual Dress." There are some indications though, that the pendulum might be swinging back the other way. Some businesses now are requiring a more professional look from their employees.

I remember several decades ago reading the book, "Dress for Success." In this book the author tells that when you get dressed, generally only about ten percent of your body is actually showing — your face, hands, etc. Therefore, the rest of your body is covered with *what you think of yourself* and *what you think of the people you are with*. That is interesting because those ideas are still true. When it comes to dressing for church, two truths ought to be remembered.

- Man looks on the outward appearance and God looks on the heart. He sees what none of us can see and knows what none of the rest of us knows. It is an internal thing — our relationship with God.

- No one should be excluded from church because they are not dressed up. I'm not talking about someone who may be dressed lewd or offensive.

So, how are we supposed to dress when we go to church? Why should we dress any differently when we go to church than we do when we go to the grocery store? I would not and

could not write a dress code for churches, but I would like to suggest to you three words to be kept in mind when you get ready to go and worship God:

- **Respect.** You are not just going to eat with your friends, nor are you going just to have a personal encounter with God. It is a corporate meeting with other people who join with you in the experience of praise and worship of the living God. Do you have to wear a coat and tie to please him? Absolutely not! Is he upset if you wear a golf shirt? I doubt it! Yet, there is something to be said in regards to what we are saying by our dress, about how we feel toward him, and how we respect him.

Some time ago I had a discussion with a man who was anti-dressing up to come to church. He strongly defended his position by saying that God didn't care and we shouldn't care what's on the outside. We should only be concerned about what's on the inside. While I would agree with that part of his argument, there are other things to be considered that are also important. Some weeks after our discussion, I ran into him in a funeral home where we both were visiting. He was dressed up in a suit and tie. I simply asked him, "What are you doing all dressed up?" He said, "Well, I just thought that I ought to out of respect." I smiled and said, "Good point."

I believe that there are times,

when out of respect for the person we are truly meeting with, we ought to express our best.

- **Reflect.** Like it or not, what we wear does reflect how we feel inside and how we feel towards those we are going to be with. In one of my early churches there was a dear man who wore overalls every day of his life. That was all he had. Even on Sunday he wore overalls — sparkling clean, starched, and pressed overalls for church. For him, it was a reflection of how he felt about the dignity of coming to meet with his God.

- **Reject.** There is some dress that just should not be in church. The Scripture says that we are to avoid all appearance of evil and there are times when what we wear is inappropriate, offensive, or over-revealing. I believe common sense and reasonableness ought to enter into how we dress, whether at school, or church, or virtually anywhere. Now you might ask, "What is reasonable?" Well, in most churches if you just randomly, blindly picked five people, more than likely four and possibly all five of them would agree as to what reasonable and unreasonable dress is.

Whatever you put on to go to church, I do hope you will go. I think, however, that we must keep in mind that while going to church is an open, welcome, warm, and social environment where everyone should feel at ease, it is also an experience that is different from going to a football game, or a mall, or just a social gathering. It is an experience where God's people meet with him and from deep inside, all the way to the outside, we should think about how we look to him.

## M.W. Smith: 'pass baton' or risk dying

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Christian singer-songwriter Michael W. Smith says churches must be willing to "pass the baton" of worship music to younger generations or risk dying.

"It's old wineskins," he said. "I think a lot of people who are not embracing some of the songs that are being sung are just afraid of change, and I think it's unhealthy."

Smith said churches can't afford to ignore younger people when it comes to worship music. "I think you have got to pass the baton, and we've got to have a heart for kids and this next generation."

"Hopefully, you ultimately have a group of people within that church that absolutely are on their faces every day praying for God to break down the wall, and that change will happen."



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



VBS Participants of Branch Church, Morton

First Church Carthage, sent a group of students to Centrifuge at Glorieta, N. Mex., June 10-14.

Bethlehem Church, Forkville, broke ground May 19 for their new fellowship hall. Pictured, from left: Howard Merchant; Jon Latham; Butch Gordon; Stephen Lanier, pastor; Janelle Armstrong; and Debbie Beemon.



Bethlehem Church, Forkville, Ground Breaking Committee



VBS Participants of Lakeshore Church, Jackson

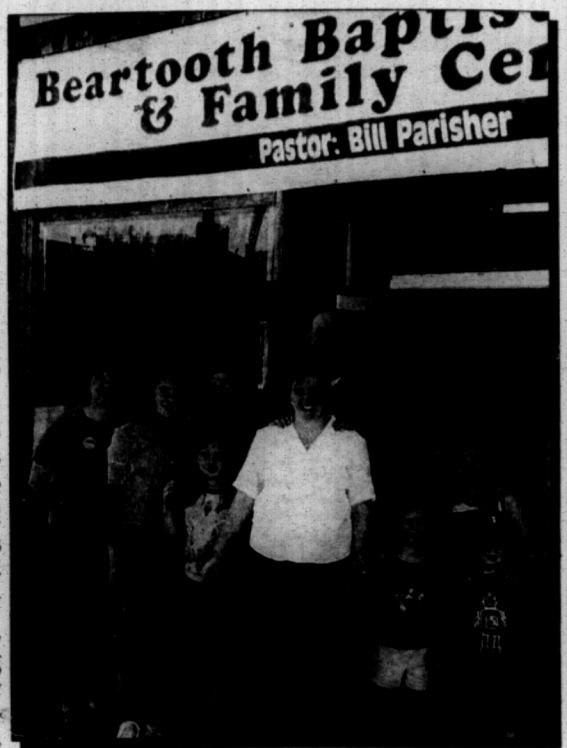
First Church, Charleston, visited the North American Mission Board church plant in Absarokee, Mont., and delivered literature for use in evangelistic outreach. This was the first anniversary of Southern Baptist work in Absarokee. First Church members, from left: Janine and Chelsea Vincent; Amanda Dew; Amanda, Darci, Bill, and Zachary Parish; and Monica and John Vincent. Not pictured: Sandra Dew.



Youth of First Church, Carthage

Vacation Bible School was held June 17-21 at Branch Church, Morton, with an enrollment of 79 children and workers. Lauren Crout and Giovanni Murphy.

Lakeshore Church, Jackson, held VBS June 23-28. With an average attendance of 86, the staff, parents, and children raised over \$495 toward the Metro Association mission trip to Montana and Canada. The high school youth class (pictured) gave \$138. The 1st and 2nd grade classes were the runners-up. From left are Jay Leach, Mike Parks, Jared Crout, Greg Palmer, Jeffery Cooper, and Corey Spooner. Members not pictured are



First Church, Charleston

### COME JOIN US FOR A BAPTIST FAMILY GATHERING...

### 1 NIGHT - 3 RALLIES

Sunday - August 18, 2002  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Adult Gathering - FBC Brandon (West Campus)



Charles Lowery  
Albuquerque, NM

Adult  
Rally  
Speaker -  
6 p.m.

Sunday  
School  
Seminar  
Speaker -  
5:00 p.m. -  
All Teachers  
are invited!



Alan Raughton  
Lifeway - Nashville, TN

Youth Gathering - Park Place BC

Stuart  
Henslee

Youth Speaker



Worship  
lead by  
Ken  
Broome

Children's Gathering - McLaurin Heights BC



Jan  
Halford

Ventriloquist

Libby  
Panter

International  
Mission Board



For more information call (601) 292-3283.  
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Mississippi Baptist Convention.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

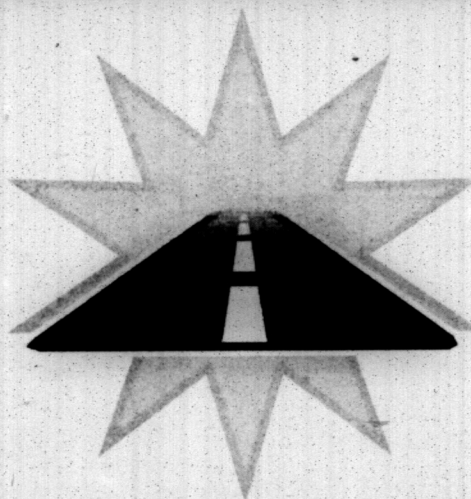
August 8, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## January Bible Study Preview Clinics 2002

**"Helping Your Church  
Stay on Course: Studies in  
I Corinthians"**

**Conference Leader:**  
**Gene Henderson**  
*Pastor, FBC, Brandon*



### Locations:

September 23 Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain  
September 24 Delta State BSU, Cleveland  
September 25 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Jackson  
September 26 William Carey College, Hattiesburg

### Conference Times (all locations):

9-9:30 a.m. Registration/Refreshments  
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Conference  
Complimentary lunch will be provided

*Sponsored by: Sunday School Dept.  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651*

## VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT

☐ Church Project   ☐ Association Project   ☐ Individual Project

Your Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

### Project Information

**Type of Project:**   ☐ Community   ☐ In-State   ☐ U.S.   ☐ Foreign  
Project Location (state or country) \_\_\_\_\_  
Total No. of Volunteers from Your Church \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Work Accomplished and the No. of People Involved in Each Project:

☐ Construction \_\_\_\_\_   ☐ V.B.S. \_\_\_\_\_   ☐ Survey \_\_\_\_\_   ☐ Medical/Dental \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Evangelism \_\_\_\_\_   ☐ Bible Clubs \_\_\_\_\_   ☐ Music \_\_\_\_\_   ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Decisions:

Professions of Faith \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember to send your report by August 15!**

Be sure to include all projects from August 2001 to August 2002.

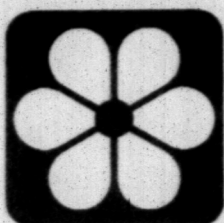
Mail to: Volunteer Mission Report, Men's Ministry Department  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, 601-968-3800  
fax: 601-714-7436, email: jdidlake@mbcb.org



Each year the Men's Ministry Department is responsible for reporting to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the number of people in Mississippi who were involved in volunteer missions, where they went, etc.

Please help us by reporting your church and/or association involvement. If you have pictures or stories you would like to share with us, please include this information with your completed form. Complete and return to us a copy of this form for each project in which your people (individuals, youth, adults, etc.) participated.





# Statewide Woman's Retreat

## God's Plan...My Part In Every Season of a Woman's Life

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Friday, October 4, 3 p.m. – Saturday, October 5, 3 p.m.

**Featuring Testimonies and \*Breakout Sessions by:**

### SPRING: LAUREN WELLS

Richton, Miss.

*\*Involving Young Women in God's Plan*

### SUMMER: LAURA SAVAGE

Women's Consultant WMU, SBC

*\*Developing a Biblical Vision for Your Women's Groups*

*\*Just Do It – Locally and Globally*

### FALL: LAURA LEATHERS

Hidden Treasures Ministries, Pickens, Miss.

*\*Building Your Leadership Skills*

### WINTER: GLORIA THURMAN

Missionary, Bangladesh & New York, Columbia, Miss.

*\*Missions is Not a Foreign Word*

**MABEL AND EDITH:** McComb, Miss.

*Sisters Who Care Testimonies*

**DIANE GARCIA:** Language Consultant, WMU, SBC

*Hispanic Conferences*

**BECKY BROWN:** *\*The Greatest Kids I Never Had...Mentoring*

**TAMMY ANDERSON:** *\*Let's Have a Party!*

**AUDREY HECTOR:** *\*Forgiving...Healing the Broken Heart*

**DEBORA JOINER:** *\*Sisters Who Care Training*

**MARGARET ANN FORTENBERRY:**

*\*Off the Prayer Calendar Into Your Heart*

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP LED BY KAREN HARDY**

*Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn.*

**REGISTER** with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Phone: (228) 452-7261 FAX: (228) 452-7263

**COST:** \$52.50 (all-inclusive); \$32.50 (conference/meals only);  
\$13 (commuter)

**FOR INFO:** Mississippi WMU, (601) 968-3800 or 1 (800) 748-1651

Plan ahead for the 2003 State Evangelism Conference, January 27-28  
Harrisburg BC, Tupelo, featuring Jaye Martin, Women's Consultant, NAMB

## No More Playing Dress-Up... It's a Matter of the Heart.

### 2002 Discipleship Training Directors Dinner and Workshop

**From the Basics to the Advanced  
Get a Grip on Your Ministry!**

Monday, August 19

First Baptist  
Church  
New Albany  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20

First Baptist  
Church  
Crystal Springs  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 22

Gulfshore Baptist  
Assembly  
Pass Christian  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**No Cost for this Event, But Reservations are Required!**

Sponsored by the  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

**"...Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart."**

1 Samuel 16:7

### Preregistration Form

## Discipleship Training Directors Workshop

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Association \_\_\_\_\_

I serve as:

- ☐ Associational Missions Director
- ☐ Associational Discipleship Training Director
- ☐ Discipleship Training Director
- ☐ Pastor
- ☐ Minister of Education
- ☐ Other

I will attend the workshop at:

- ☐ FBC, New Albany
- ☐ FBC, Crystal Springs
- ☐ Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

**Preregister  
by  
July 29  
2002**

Complete and return to the Discipleship and Family Ministry  
Department, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

Contact information:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205  
1-800-748-1651 or (601) 968-3800 locally  
Fax: (601) 714-7432



# One Voice in Worship

## August 18

Fairview BC  
Columbus, 7 p.m.



## Worship Service

### August 25, FBC, Brandon

~6 p.m.

For more information, contact the MBCB  
Church Music Department at  
1 (800) 748-1651 or in Jackson,  
(601) 292-3267.

2  
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2

## Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops

September 10-12, 2002  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

If you haven't received your brochure  
in the mail, please contact us.

- Professional Certification led by Nancee Ratliff
- SkillShop topics offered this year by Nancy Finn:

**DESIGNING PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS** – Use the power of your word processing software to design dynamic newsletters, bulletins, and other publications. Designing Professional Publications will teach you formatting, writing, and design principles that will keep your publications on the cutting edge.

**UNDERSTANDING MYSELF AND OTHERS** – This SkillShop will guide you in becoming the person God intended you to be by introducing your younger self and discovering God's original design. You will learn how your moods affect your emotions. You'll discover your own personality traits and you'll learn how to work with different personalities. You will develop skills to cultivate your potential through acceptance and emotional maturity.

For more information, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development  
Department (formerly Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries),  
Kay McDonnell, 1 (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3305.

## BAPTIST HYMNALS NEEDED FOR AFRICAN SEMINARY

The only seminary in Africa offering a graduate degree in church music is in Ogbomosho, Nigeria. Currently, most African church choirs sing only the melody of hymns from memory, for they have only the words without music.

Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Department consultant, after teaching a course at this seminary, has a burden to provide our fellow Baptist musicians in Africa with 5,000 copies of the 1991 Baptist Hymnal. Their choirs could then proclaim the theology of our Baptist faith in beautiful four-part harmony! As of August 2002, 4,000 hymnals have been given and/or sent...just 1000 needed to reach our goal of 5,000!

You can help with a financial gift. One hymnal is \$5. A box of 20 is \$100. If you or your church group would like to participate in this ministry, please call Jimmy McCaleb at (601) 292-3273, 1 (800) 748-1651 or E-mail him at [jmccaleb@mbcb.org](mailto:jmccaleb@mbcb.org).

Checks may be made out to the Mississippi  
Baptist Convention Board and mailed to:

Jimmy McCaleb  
MBCB  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205

THE BAPTIST HYMNAL



Pray this day for...

August 9-22, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

*"Feed your faith and your doubts  
will starve to death."*

For: (1) Language Missions Day (WMU Emphasis); (2) Pray for the Cell Church Network and EMICEL (Cell Team) in Chile as they focus upon the future of cell ministry within their churches and throughout Chile.

As the economic system in Argentina is crumbling, the number of businesses that declare bankruptcy continues to grow. An all-time low in morale and an all-time high in crime and delinquency is taking place. Pray for the leaders of Argentina, that in this time of crisis, they will seek direction from the only trustworthy Source.

For: (1) Sunday School/ Discipleship Training Director Training, Emmanuel BC, Grenada (SS/D&FM); (2) Leake Baptist Association Leadership Training Supper, Trinity BC, Carthage; (3) Please pray today for President Jacques Chirac of France (western Europe).

Give thanks to the Lord and rejoice with the Buryat Team of Russia that they were able to share the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection with all of the students at a school and orphanage in a Buryat village. Also, the headmistress of the school welcomed them to come anytime during the summer.

Missionaries serving in Cote d'Ivoire on the newly formed West Africa Partnership Team write: "Our team is learning French so we can translate for volunteers and communicate within the culture. Pray that our language skills will improve and that communication will not hinder the gospel from being heard."

For: (1) Church Leadership Training, Garaywa, 9th-10th (WMU); (2) State Handbell Seminar/Skills Clinic, FBC, Canton, 10th (CM); (3) Pray for a new believer, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who has just been baptized. She formerly followed a world religion.

Missionaries Tim and Annie Tidenberg, who serve in Tanzania, share: "Our area is in turmoil right now due to new governmental laws restricting several Maasai cultural practices. They have been restricted because of the threat of the spread of AIDS. Please pray that we would be able to be peacemakers in this situation."

For: (1) Men's Leadership Training for Churches, Central Hills, Kosciusko, 16th-17th (MM); (2) More than 100 Christian workers from South Korea have been detained in China during the last year, charged with illegal religious activities. Pray for the protection of these workers who are being held.

For: (1) Area Preschool/Children's Choir Clinic, FBC, Hattiesburg (CM); (2) Pray for Guizhou's most powerful official, Communist Party Leader Quian Yunlu, to have the wisdom to see that a growing and healthy church is good for China.

Two volunteers from South Carolina's state collegiate ministry have chosen to remain in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, throughout the summer to follow up on contacts made by their greater team's visit in May. Pray that they will allow the light of the gospel of Christ to shine through their words, eyes and actions as they interact with students in this city of 3 million.

Malta consists of three tiny islands in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Ninety-nine percent of Maltese people believe that there is a God, but very few of them know Him through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Today, pray especially for the Maltese Islands.

At the gate to a temple in India are Telugu men, women and children of all ages, seated, waiting for the daily ration of food or a coin or two. Some are crippled, blind, sick or just old. Pray that those who sit at the temple gates seeking help would find hope and refuge in the One True God.

Tom Bacon is director of missions resources in Reno, Nevada. Pray for him as he plants churches, offers disaster relief, provides chaplains and missions education, and recruits volunteers. Pray for Tom and Thelma's four grown children and three grandchildren.

The Bosnian Team asks: "Please remember the personnel within Bosnia as we seek to follow up the contacts from the recent Bible distribution teams. Ask for God's strength, wisdom and language ability for the workers among the Bosniaks. Pray that the seed would fall on good soil and would produce fruit!"



## Growing in God's Spirit

### 2002 Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Training

**Saturday, August 17**  
**FBC, Hattiesburg**  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Preschool - Barry Tweedy**  
Hernando BC, Hernando  
Minister of Music  
**Younger Children - Katrina Marler**  
Daniel Memorial BC  
Jackson  
**Older Children - Bill Barnes**  
Macedonia BC  
Mendenhall  
**1-6 Grades - Gloria Barnes**  
Macedonia BC  
Mendenhall

**Saturday, August 24**  
**FBC, Madison**  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Preschool - Lida Stark**  
Northside BC, Clinton  
**Younger Children - Pam Meadows**  
FBC, Clinton  
**Older Children - Charlotte McElroy**  
Calvary BC, Tupelo  
**1-6 Grades - Gloria Barnes**  
Macedonia BC  
Mendenhall

**Saturday, August 24**  
**Harrisburg BC, Tupelo**  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Preschool - Debbie Wren**  
Oak Forest BC, Jackson  
**Younger Children - Sarah Talley**  
Church Music Department  
MBCB, Jackson  
**Older Children - Tommy Gillon**  
Longview Heights BC  
Olive Branch  
**1-6 Grades - Keith Stevens**  
FBC, Water Valley

**Registration:**  
9-9:30 a.m.  
**Conference:**  
9:30 a.m. -  
12:30 p.m.

**No preregistration  
required**

**Cost: \$5 per person**

*Featuring the fall graded  
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All directors and teachers  
are encouraged to attend.*

For more information, call  
the Church Music  
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1 (800) 748-1651 or  
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HOUSE TOPS



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Poet Voices** from Ringgold, Ga., will be in concert at Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. Call (601) 892-1121 for more information, or visit the church's website at [www.lifewaylink.com/harmony-baptistchurch](http://www.lifewaylink.com/harmony-baptistchurch).



**Poet Voices**

**Center Ridge Church, Clarke County**, will observe its 150th anniversary on Aug. 11. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served in fellowship hall at noon. Former pastors will be given five minutes to speak. Grady Crowell, associational missions director, will bring the morning message. Robert Day and his wife will be in charge of the music. Jim Manning is pastor.

Sunday, July 14. The new facility contains a full-size gym, dining room, kitchen, youth assembly room, game room, and six classrooms.

Youth from **Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven**, collected approximately \$2,000 worth of supplies for the Dickerson Place, the Brookhaven campus of the Baptist Children's Village. The

Corey Britt, and Tammy Thompson. Not pictured is Breck Ladd, minister to students.

**GAs of Dumas Church, Dumas**, made hospitality bags for Mississippi Delta MissionsFest that was held in

**Parkhill Church, West Jackson**, will host Heaven's Grace Quartet of Brandon/Pearl, Aug. 11, at 6 p.m. For additional information, call Raymond Dyess at (601) 939-2175.



**Younger GAs of Dumas Church**

April. Younger GAs (pictured, from left, front row) are Alesa Taylor, Tensley Taylor, Carly Jones, (back row) Katie Reece, leader Patsy Davis, Chloe Bailey, Brionna Mauney, and leader Sidra Davis. Older GAs (pictured, from left, front row) McKenzie Simpson, Anna Bailey, Katie Jones, Batina White, Heather Robbins; (back row) Hannah Alexander, Rachel Luna, Katie Hodges, Lauren Childers, Brooke Williams, Laura Burcham, and Tamara Childers.

**Park Haven Church, Laurel**, will host Hosanna from Magee in a gospel sing at 7 p.m. on Aug. 17. For additional information, call Jimmy Downs at (601) 649-5357.

**Concord Church, Booneville**, recently licensed Anthony Wayne Copeland to the ministry. He is available for speaking engagements and may be contacted at (662) 728-7061. Copeland (left) is pictured receiving his license from Robert E. Walker, pastor.



**Copeland and Walker**

**Macedonia Church, Lee County**, will celebrate its 90th anniversary on Oct. 6. For a schedule of events, send your name and address to Shirley Hunter, 630 Hwy 178 W, Tupelo, MS 38804 or call (662) 842-2248.

Youth (pictured) of **North Columbia Church, Columbia**, attended Centrifuge in Glorieta, New Mexico, June 21-29. They were Brant Terrell, Matthew Green, Stephanie Lucas (chaperone), Jennifer Green, Leah Kilpatrick, Candace Nichols, Andrew Simmons, Timothy Alexander, Eric Lucas (Chaperone), Todd Pittman (youth director), Kent Lucas, Brydon Terrell, James Midel, and Orrie Sanders.



**Youth of North Columbia Church**



**Older GAs of Dumas Church**

**Tylertown Church, Tylertown**, will celebrate its 100th anniversary at the 11 a.m. worship service on Oct. 6. A covered dish will be held at noon in the fellowship hall. Guest speakers will be James L. Sullivan, Nashville, Tenn., and Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson. Michael W. Glenn is pastor.

**Parkway Church, Houston**, held dedication services for its new Family Life Center on

youth and chaperones distributed "shopping lists" and the story of the Dickerson Place to shoppers of the Brookhaven Super Wal-Mart on July 13. The group then collected and delivered all the supplies that had been donated to the Dickerson Place. Pictured (from left, top row) are Jessalyn Walker, Candi White, Carly Waldrop, Olivia Kirk, Anna Bishop, Calvin Herrin, and Grace Mulligan; (bottom row) Sawyer Smith, Paige Britt, Kori Thompson,



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(I believe in Jesus.)
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## Letter to the editor

Editor:

Parkway Church, Clinton, will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary on Saturday, August 17, and Sunday, August 18. The theme for the two-day observance will be "Celebrating a Legacy of Faith."

A Celebration Banquet for the Parkway family, former staff and former members will be held on Saturday Night, August 17, in the Grand Hall of Mississippi College with Clyde Ray Webber, humorist, and Paid in Full, men's trio, providing the program. Tickets for this event must be purchased by August 12.

On Sunday morning, August 18, there will be a complimentary continental breakfast, viewing of historic memorabilia and a fellowship time from 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. At 10 a.m., a Celebration of Worship will unite us in a time of praise, reflection and commitment. Paid in Full will again provide music and Bill Causey, beloved former pastor, will be the guest speaker.

We would like to share this special time with our friends. For more information, call (601) 924-9912.

Betty Sue Bates, Chair  
Anniversary Celebration  
Parkway Church, Clinton

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**Amanda Cowart**, daughter of Mike and Beth Cowart of Piedmont, Okla., has been appointed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to serve on the State Missions Committee for the upcoming year. She will work on a council to suggest areas for ministry next summer, interview summer mission candidates, and appoint summer missionaries for the summer of 2003. **Maria Teel**, daughter of Maynard and Paulette Teel of Red Banks, has been elected to serve as the State Vice President for Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU). She works with the executive committee and is involved in planning state BSU events such as College Student Conference and Leadership Training Conference. Both students are seniors at Blue Mountain College.

**Eric Pratt** has been named as Vice President for Christian Development for Mississippi College (MC). He will be responsible for the area of campus Christian development, which will encompass campus ministries, chapel programming and campus evangelistic and mission work. Pratt goes to MC from Anderson College in Anderson, S.C., where he held the position of campus minister. He received his education at Vanderbilt University and New Orleans Seminary. Pratt served as minister to university students at First Church, New Orleans, in 1997.

Twenty-seven **William Carey College** students have been named to the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Honor Roll. To qualify for the Honor Roll, athletes must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average or higher through the spring

term of 2002. They also must have competed during the 2001-2002 sports season and be in at least their second year of school. Students from the softball team honored are Danae Austrom and Janelle Austrom, Surrey, British Columbia (Canada); Margaret Fremin, Thibodaux, La.; Robyn Killebrew, Durant; Kristie Sebold, Gulf Breeze, Fla.; Jennifer Wilson, Wilmer, Ala.; Vanessa Wechlin, Richmond, British Columbia (Canada); and Stephanie Powell, Purvis. Justin Patterson, Sumrall, was honored as a player on the men's basketball team. Women's basketball players recognized are Kayla Cooley, Waynesboro; Keely Marshall, Waveland; Kristin McGehee, Byram; Misty Bethany, Petal; Lori DeSilvey, Kiln; and Jessica Pucheu, Bay St. Louis. Baseball players recognized were Theodore Cannon III and Ryan Lott, both from Petal; Greg Breazeale, Purvis; Chris Dunn, Magee; Mike Hingle, Slidell, La.; Jeffrey Long, Hurler; Michael Rhodus, Magnolia; Britt Hederman, Magee; and Kyle Valentine, Quitman. Golfers honored include Jason Harvey, Hattiesburg; Adam Speights, Purvis; and Brian Whiddon, Sumrall.



Pratt

**Blue Mountain College (BMC)** welcomed new students to the campus in June for orientation. New freshmen registered for classes, met with advisors, and learned more about the social, spiritual, and academic activities available at BMC. The Student Government Association provided and served sodas during lunch after assisting with orientation. Thirty-nine students attended pre-registration along with 45 other guests.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Antioch (Itawamba):** Aug. 18-21; 7:30 p.m.; Jimmy Russell, Thaxton Church, Pontotoc Association, evangelist; James Rutledge, pastor.

**Little Bahala (Lincoln):** homecoming, Aug. 11; service, 11 a.m., with lunch to follow; Ken Kirk, pastor of Heuck's Retreat, speaker; revival, Aug. 12-14, Ken Kirk, evangelist; and Dale Heard, music.

**Bunker Hill, Columbia:** Sept. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m., Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Mike Parks, Tyler, Texas, music; Doug Laird, interim pastor.

**Pine Grove (Picayune):** Aug. 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tony Lambert, Brandon, evangelist; Benjy Rigney, Unity, music; Reggie Bridges, pastor.

**Hebron (Panola):** Aug. 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Gredille, guest speaker; Alice A. Thornton, pianist; Travis Tramel, pastor.

## HOMEcomings

**Cedar View, Olive Branch:** Aug. 11; 39th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; noon meal; special music, 1 p.m.; Richard Hamlet, former pastor, speaker.

**Faithview, Saucier:** Aug. 25; 38th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Ernest Sadler, missions director, Jackson Association, guest speaker; Dan Bradley, pastor.

**Bunker Hill, Columbia:** Sept. 1; 9:45 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall, 12:15 p.m.; special program, God's Promises, 9:45 a.m.-noon; Doug Laird, interim pastor.

**D'Lo, D'Lo:** Aug. 18; 15th anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch; Steve White, guest speaker.

**Fellowship, Ellisville:** Aug. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; note burning service, 1:30 p.m.; Rayford Moore, former pastor, speaker.

**Big Springs, Brookhaven:** Aug. 11; worship, 11 a.m.; Lannie Wilbourn, speaker; dinner on the grounds followed by singing by The Beesons at 1:30 p.m.; Eric Naquin is pastor.

**Center Ridge, Yazoo City:** 110th anniversary; Aug. 11; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m. service; Joe Royalty, Petal, guest speaker; Ric Posey, music; Mike Sutton, pastor.



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**HOMEcoming** - Leland, Lakeview Baptist Church 50th Anniversary Sunday, September 22, 2002. Services begin at 10:30 a.m., dinner and afternoon singing, S.B. Boyett, Pastor.

**MOULTON BAPTIST CHURCH**, Moulton, Ala. seeks full-time minister of music and worship. Send resumes to Pastor, Moulton Baptist Church, P.O. Box 430, Moulton, AL 35650 or e-mail [dwood@moultonbaptist.org](mailto:dwood@moultonbaptist.org).

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## STAFF CHANGES



**Tanner Riley** is retiring from full-time ministry after serving First Church, Starkville, for over 16 years.

**Riley** has served in Mississippi churches include

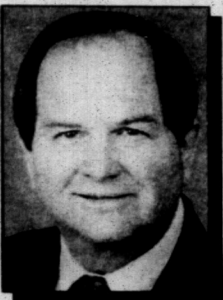
Bowmar Avenue, Vicksburg; Collins, Collins; Highland, Meridian; and First, Clinton; and churches in Texas and Arkansas for an accumulated time of over 44 years, primarily as minister of music. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. Riley is available for interim and supply ministry as well as revivals and conferences. He may be reached at 104 Willow Oak Court, Starkville, MS 39759 or call (662) 324-1305.

A reception was held on July 14 for **Terry Edwards**, new pastor of Center Hill Church, Hamilton, and effective June 3. His previous place of service was Bethel Church in Bogue Chitto. Edwards is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Pictured are Scott, Erin, Pat, and Terry Edwards; and Jim Harrington, missions director for Monroe Association.



The Edwards Family of Center Hill and Jim Harrington

**Dee DeBold** has completed an interim pastorate at New Hope Church, Monticello, and is available for supply preaching or interim. DeBold has a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He has pastored full-time in Pennsylvania and Mississippi, and for nine years has pastored bivocationally in Simpson, Lawrence, Marion, Lincoln, and Walthall counties, while teaching and coaching basketball in the Lawrence County School District. DeBold can be contacted at (601) 587-7806.



**Kimbrough** Jackson. Kimbrough is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

**Kenneth Goff** has been called to Trinity Church of Pearl as pastor effective July 1. He previously served as pastor at Fairfield Church, Moselle. Goff was pastor at Trinity Church almost nine years before being called to Moselle.

Calvary Church, Greenwood, has called **Wayne Kimbrough** as pastor. He previously served at Woodville Heights Church, Jackson.

## VBS NEWS

The children of **Macedonia Church** in Lee Association were involved in several missions projects throughout the week of Vacation Bible School. First through sixth graders made hygiene kits for the Mississippi Disaster Relief Unit and treat bags for children at a local safe shelter. Preschoolers brought canned goods each day that were given to the Lee County Baptist Association's Food Pantry. The offering from VBS was sent to the Baptist Children's Village. VBS director was Marsha Vinson. Dwight Brown is pastor.



First Church Macedonia Preschoolers



First Church Macedonia 5th - 6th graders



First Church Macedonia 3rd - 4th graders



First Church Macedonia 1st - 2nd graders

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# TruthQuester Royals prays for boldness

By Katie Royals, member  
First Church, Jackson

## TruthQuest team begins journey

SAN DIEGO (BP) — TruthQuest: California, the nation's first Christian reality television series, features 12 teenagers and their encounters with Southern Baptist evangelistic and teambuilding ministries. The students, ages 14-18, are traveling across California in a charter bus, stopping in San Diego, Los Angeles, Yosemite National Park, Lake Forest, and San Francisco.

Katie Royals, a member of First Church, Jackson, was selected earlier this year to be a part of the TruthQuest team.

The teens will be videotaped while participating in various Southern Baptist ministries, including a surfing church, rappelling ministry, and a coffeehouse for troubled teens. Their adventures also will be chronicled through news features and daily journals to be posted on Baptist Press (BP).

Todd Starnes, assistant editor of BP and creator of the concept for the 13-episode series, sees the mainstream media as "interested in seeing if this will work. It is a novelty concept — putting a bunch of Christians together. I think the world believes there isn't much of a difference in the way we live our lives, but there is."

PACIFIC BEACH, Calif. (BP) — Before ever arriving in California for TruthQuest, I prayed a whole lot. There is one phrase in particular that I decided to claim — get usable and allow God to wear you out!

I have wanted for so long to be bold in a way that I find hard to describe. I felt that one of my biggest challenges would be the fear of being unsure of my words: getting into a situation in which I couldn't explain my way out or just not having the answer to a question I was asked.

So, it was with all this anticipation and not nearly enough faith that I brought myself out to Pacific Beach.

I woke up with so much excitement. We began the day working with Evan Lauer, pastor of Coastlands Community Church. He and the people of Coastlands were hosting their annual "Beach Reach," a great way to witness by passing out free soft drinks and sunscreen along Pacific Beach boardwalk.

At first, I hung back and I could feel God waiting on me. I knew then that God had something very cool he wanted to teach me today. During my first few encounters, I was teamed up with my fellow TruthQuester Cara, which seemed to work quite well.

We came across all kinds of people. So many seemed like they really wanted what we were offering, but some still wanted to hold on to their skepticism.

One of the most rewarding encounters today was with a guy named Larry. Larry was a super nice guy but kind of unsure of himself. It was completely a God thing how he was so receptive to everything we had to say. After going through all of the questions and Scriptures, we asked him if he wanted us to pray with him. It was so awesome.

After he prayed and turned his life over to Christ, I thought to myself how the angels were having a party in heaven for Larry — YEAHH!!



SHARING THE FAITH — Katie Royals (left), a member of First Church, Jackson, and Cara Yates of Cleveland, Tenn., pray with a young man named Larry as he makes a profession of faith during a TruthQuest beach outreach effort in San Diego. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

We had other encounters throughout the day with people from all different walks of life.

One encounter that stood out was with a man named Mitch. He and his grandson had walked up and inquired about the free soft drinks. After talking to him for a while I learned that he was raised by parents believing they were vampires.

He also had no belief in right or wrong. Instead, he said, "All sins are relative." I talked to him for about 45 minutes and felt like I had gotten nothing accomplished. He went on his way and I felt so drained. I wanted so badly for him to believe what I was explaining to him, but it just wasn't working out.

By this point, I had already missed lunch and I was in no mood to surf, much less strike up a conversation with another passerby. Then I remembered my heart's cry for our ministry and God proved faithful once again: I really learned what it means to be spiritually drained yet so replenished at the same time.

In hindsight, it seems so clear as to what it means to relinquish our entire beings to him. How absolutely wonderful it is to be at his feet, surrendering to his mercy and allowing myself be swept away.

Katie Royals is one of 12 teens selected for the TruthQuest: California, a project of Baptist Press, FamilyNet, and LifeWay.

## Mississippian learning along TruthQuest route

YOSEMITE, Calif. (BP) — With a flashlight in hand, TruthQuest member Katie Rice Royals, age 17 and a member of First Church, Jackson, swings

her backpack over her shoulder, grabs her sleeping bag, and heads toward the camping site at Yosemite National Park.

The sun is setting behind the Sequoia-adorned mountains, and this seasoned outdoorswoman said she is closer to God because of the scenery around her.

"There is something about not having any man-made things accessible like TV or radio. I feel like I am closer to God by being surrounded by his creation," said Royals, who will begin freshman studies this fall at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

"There is nothing here to distract me. Being surrounded by nature such as Yosemite takes my breath away. I often wonder

how anyone can look at a place such as Yosemite and say there is not a God."

Royals is one of 12 TruthQuest members who are traveling in California ministering and writing in California this summer.

The great outdoors is something that Royals learned to appreciate early in life. "I've been around it as long as I can remember," said Royals. "I remember waking up before the sun comes up and climbing up on the deer stand to wait for the deer."

Royals' dad and uncle taught her to hunt and fish by the age of nine, and she fondly recalls the small pond in her grandfather's backyard that sparked her interest in outdoor recreation.

"I remember fishing in my grandpa's small pond and catching small minnow-like fish and thinking I was something," she said.

Royals said she does not take for granted the natural beauty surrounding her in the mountains of Yosemite National Forest.

Royals viewed the mountains of Yosemite from a new angle when she scaled a 130-foot rock, Lena's Lay Back, as part of a TruthQuest physical challenge.

"The biggest feeling of accomplishment was when I

got to the top of the rock and saw the view. If I would have just walked up the hill and looked out over the same view, it wouldn't have been as beautiful. Because I had to work hard to get to the top, the view was all the more enjoyable."

Before heading to Yosemite, Royals also had the opportunity to appreciate the Pacific Ocean in a whole new way as she and the TruthQuest team learned to windsurf at Pacific Beach in San Diego.

"I loved it, although I was a little scared at first. Once I got out in the ocean and felt the power of the waves push me along on my surfboard, I really began to enjoy surfing," Royals said.

"The best analogy I can think of with God is when you're on the board, the power of the water is behind you pushing you along. It is very important that you are not too far up or too far back on the board, or else you will wipe out."

"As long as you are where you need to be on the board, you will ride the wave without wiping out. The same is true with my relationship to God. As long as I am where I need to be with God, he will lead me and carry me along."



OUTDOOR GIRL — TruthQuest team member Katie Royals (second row, second from right), a member of First Church, Jackson, poses with fellow TruthQuesters at Yosemite National Park. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)



# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## Human Beings: Why Get Personal?

### Genesis 2:7-9,15-25

By Ruth V. Gamble

Genesis 1-11 provides a threshold through which we step into the remainder of Scripture. After the remarkable account of creation in chapter one there follows an expanded discussion of the creation of the first man and woman -- Adam and Eve. Subsequent chapters emphasize God's sovereignty as he prepares a covenant people through whom the Messiah-Redeemer will come.

This week's focus is from chapter two where God creates the first couple, giving them a meaningful life together as husband and wife, a unique relationship to him, and a special purpose in his creation.

Imagine a sculptor painstakingly shaping the figure of a man,

smoothing and shaping clay to form facial features, body, arms and hands, legs and feet.

Beautiful -- but without life! Now picture the Lord God as he lovingly, tenderly shaped man from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). Beautiful -- but wait! God wasn't finished: "He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul" (KJV). This same word "soul" (nephesh) is used in chapter one describing the living creatures. The remarkable difference in Genesis 2:7 is that man alone had God's own breath breathed directly into his nostrils, being made in God's image. Other translations, including the New King James Version, use "living being" instead of "living soul."

God had planted a garden



Gamble

in Eden where he put the man he formed, giving him a meaningful occupation "to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15). There were trees for beauty and nourishment, but two trees in the middle of the garden were very special. They were the Tree of Life and the Tree

of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eating from the Tree of Life assured continuation of life, but God commanded Adam, "You must not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Various explanations have been offered concerning the second tree. God had created Adam with a will, an ability to choose. God's command concerning this tree would test man's willingness to obey, or not obey God. Later, that same ability would be the means of accepting, or rejecting God's plan for man's redemption.

Adam had another task -- naming all the animals as God

brought them before him, male and female. "But to Adam no suitable helper was found: The Lord said, 'it is not good that man should be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and I... made a woman ... and he brought her to the man" (Genesis 2:21-22).

The secular worldview offers a confusing mix of theories concerning the origin of humanity. The second affirmation of Humanist Manifesto I says "man is a part of nature and has emerged as a result of a continuous process." Other views picture a struggle through life to reach a state of "nothingness," or that we are only a blob of molecular matter formed by accident with no hope for a future. These views lead to two extremes: (1) humans exalting themselves as deity, living only for personal satisfaction, or (2) humans rejecting their spirituality and viewing life as an accident of nature

with no moral purpose or future. The biblical worldview, however, is wonderfully assuring. Our awesome God of all the universe designed the first man in his own image, personally breathing into him life, and then creating woman from a rib in the man's own side. Here is purposeful creation, providing meaningful relationships with God and other human beings.

David has captured the essence of this wondrous account in Psalm 8:3-9 as he writes, "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers ... what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet I ... O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth." Hallelujah!

Gamble is a member of Slayden Church, Slayden.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### David - Lessons on Faith and Frailty

#### 2 Samuel 1:8-20:26

By Bart Walker

Having lived in Louisiana for 11 years I became familiar with such words as hurricane, tropical depression, and storm watch. I also learned a great deal about hurricanes and their characteristics. One thing I vividly remember is the truth that the eye of a hurricane is deceitful. A mere moment's rest that has had the tendency in history to lead people to falsely believe that the storm was actually over.

In Chapter 19 of 2 Samuel we find that David is in the eye of the stormy hurricane in his life as things temporarily settle down as Absalom's rebellion is handily defeated and he is restored as king over both Israel and Judah. As the calm has just begun and agreement has been reached between Israel and Judah concerning restoration of David to the throne, a small skirmish turns into a lasting problem as the men of Judah are

reprimanded in 19:40-43 for bringing David back without the help or involvement of the men of Israel.

Distinguishing the number of tribes in Israel from those in Judah, Israel claims to have "ten parts in the king" and claims to have more right to closeness to David than Judah. Though to the modern mind, this would not appear to be a great problem, the Israelites take such offense that they are made ripe for yet another rebellion because of jealousy.

This ripeness becomes obvious in 20:1 when a jealous Benjamite named Sheba is found inflaming hostility among the already disturbed tribes of Israel, claiming now that Israel, rather than having "ten parts in the king" now has "no portion in David, Nor do we have an inheritance in the son of Jesse." Sheba succeeds in turning Israel against David and rallying them to war against the king. This is now



Walker

open rebellion against the king as the eye of the hurricane passes over David and the hinder-part of the storm moves over his life.

The men of Judah remain loyal and David tends to some "house repair" in the beginning of chapter 20. The severity of the revolt becomes obvious to David as he finds himself "facing hostility" in 20:6. David realizes that Amasa's delay suggests that the rebellion may even be finding favor among his own leadership, so Joab is dispatched to gather the mighty men of Judah and pursue Sheba to quell the rebellion.

As Joab sets out to put down the rebellion, we find him in charge of "defusing hostility." He begins this process by weeding out those whose loyalty is questionable with the ranks of Judah. Joab, upon meeting Amasa, considers Amasa's delay a rebellion against the king and takes his life, leaving him "wallowing in his blood" in the middle of the road. Joab then has to move the gruesome sight so that the men of war will pass by and continue the journey to engage Sheba in battle.

Joab and his men pursue Sheba until he hides himself in the city gates of Abel Beth-maacah, where Joab and his men besiege the city with hopes that they will surrender Sheba. As Joab and his men begin to build a siege wall against the city wall of Abel Beth-maacah and continue working to topple the city wall, a wise woman from the city, evidently a city leader or woman of great influence, calls out to Joab and identifies herself as faithful to the king and the city as a city of great value to Israel. She inquires of Joab to ask why he would destroy a city faithful to the king and an inheritance of the Lord.

Joab identifies the enemy Sheba who has holed up in the city to escape the judgment of the king's army. The wise woman promises the head of Sheba to be cast over the wall and Joab promises to withdraw his troops when Sheba is killed or captured. She convinces the city to turn against Sheba and his head is removed from his body and cast over the wall. When Sheba's head is given to Joab, he blows the trumpet of dispersal, and every man went to his own house and Joab returned to the king's palace.

Our lesson today demonstrates three truths that we can apply to our lives. First, small jealousies can subject even large groups to faithless action. Israel's jealousy of Judah's restoration of David without including them caused them to be ripe for false leadership as a "coalition of the disgruntled" was formed. We must be careful that we do not allow this to happen to us when we are hurt.

Second, quick action to handle conflict is necessary to avoid greater conflict. David and Joab knew that the conflict both inside and outside the immediate circle of trust must be dealt with quickly to avoid its spread. Certainly, we are not called to kill off the Shebas and the Amasas in our lives, but we are called to move to resolve disputes so that they do not spread!

Third, it is great to know that God, in his sovereignty, protects and carries out his plan for those who love him, even though they are imperfect. God's gracious care for David during the divinely-ordained storms in his life reminds us of his gracious love and care for us!

Walker is pastor of Parkway Church, Natchez.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not/date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## Abstinence expanding among teens

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — More teenagers are abstaining from sexual activity now than a decade ago, according to a report this summer by Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), a study conducted every two years by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 1990, the YRBSS found that 54.3% of teens in grades nine through 12 had had sexual intercourse. By 2001, that number had dropped to 44.6%, a difference of nearly ten percent.

Experts cite several reasons for the decline. "They're raising their standards," Leslee Unruh, president of Abstinence Clearinghouse, told CNS-News.com. "They're saying they know the difference between lust and love, and they're choosing love."

Southern Baptist were among the first groups to promote sexual abstinence until marriage among young people, with its hugely successful True Love Waits program sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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S RPTE ASJI OTYXH, TPP  
AV EVSEPV; HOSJG JYGS  
LSX DNGO GOV FSNRV  
SW GINJZEO.  
EHTPXH  
WSIGA-HVFVY: SYV

Clue: V=E

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Ten Twenty-Eight.

# Authors refocusing concept of literal devil

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Satan, Lucifer, the Evil One. Whatever name some people give the devil, they seem to have discarded the childish notion of a red creature with a forked tail and a pitchfork, two authors say.

For most people, the reality of a devil doesn't exist at all, according to a 2001 Barna poll that found only 27% of American adults who believe Satan to be a real being who can influence people's lives.

It is to these people who Chuck Lawless, associate dean and associate professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and John Franklin, prayer specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, have aimed their Bible study: *Spiritual Warfare: Biblical Truth for Victory*.

The nine-week study is published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The Bible is clear that we are in a battle against principalities and powers. The enemy seeks to devour us," Lawless said, noting that Christians do not seem to realize the imminent threat.

"For years, many believers have ignored the reality of the enemy. Churches have not been effective at teaching believers how to put on the armor of God. Consequently, many people in our churches are living defeated lives, and they don't even know

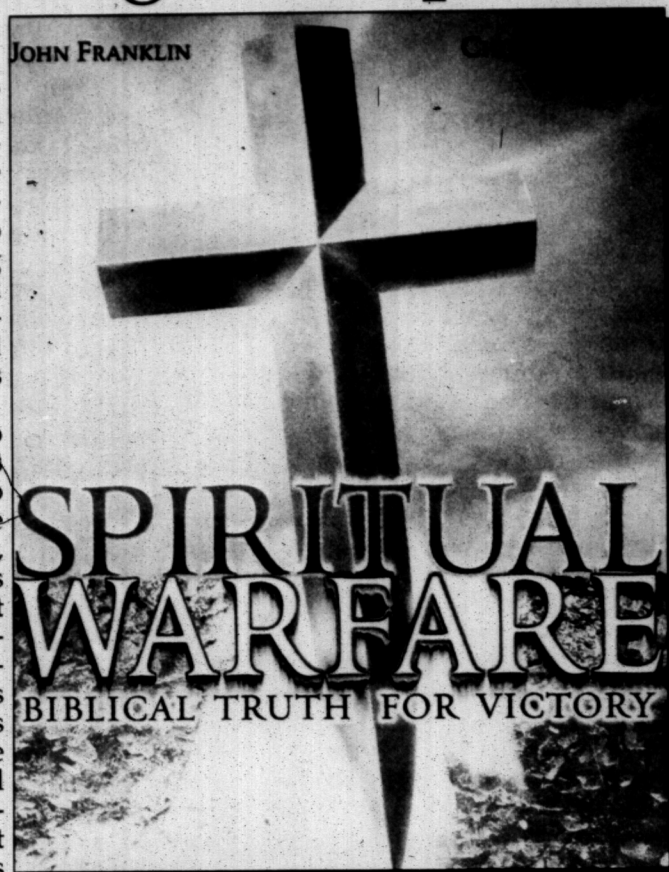
they're in a battle."

Lawless and Franklin define spiritual warfare as the conflict of two opposing wills — God and his followers and Satan and his followers.

The two main truths they seek to communicate in the study, the authors said, are that the Bible contains essential truths believers need to wage successful spiritual warfare and that victory does not always guarantee immediate deliverance from evil.

While the study helps participants recognize the devious nature of Satan, its primary focus is to give Christians practical handles for knowing how to use good to trump evil.

"I want them to come out of [the study] God-centered and equipped in knowing how to respond," Franklin said. "There is a greater purpose in spiritual warfare."



The study includes a workbook and videos that feature interviews with the authors along with an ongoing vignette about a family dealing with spiritual warfare. Each session is designed to include two video segments — a short discussion with the authors and the next segment of the family's story.

Both Lawless and Franklin say they believe that resources on spiritual warfare have a responsibility to readers to be

biblically based, something they've done with their study by focusing it on biblical examples, passages and ideas.

The authors also seek to correct some common misconceptions about spiritual warfare, address current issues and reestablish God's central role in it. For example, Franklin said, "There is no record in the Bible that Satan ever destroyed the people of God. He deceived them into sin, and God [destroyed them] for him."

Franklin said the church is under God's judgment today, but doesn't know it. "We are attributing much of our failure to Satan, and failing to see it is actually the disciplinary action of God," he said.

Citing a 1997 Barna poll that found many Christian leaders believe that more than one-half of those in churches may be lost, Franklin stressed the importance of developing a Bible study that centers on God, not Satan.

"We want people to focus on God more than the devil," Franklin said. "Many times the reference point is Satan. We want the reference point to be God."

For use in small groups or as personal study, *Spiritual Warfare* is important because of its biblically based practicality, Lawless said.

"Our faith is something more than just head knowledge; we have to live it out," he said. "This study is designed not only to give information, but also to give direction."

## Writer: Locust plague still offering timely advice

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Unless you live in a college dorm or on a farm, you probably don't fear the destructive onslaught of creepy, crawly insect plagues like those experienced in the Old Testament.

Author Jan Coleman says people should fear what the Old Testament plague of locusts symbolized — loss and destruction — because those same elements are everywhere in today's society.

"More than ever we're seeing broken lives, and the Christian church is really having the same problems — even more so — than the world," said Coleman, who wrote the new Broadman & Holman (B&H) book, *After the Locusts: Restoring Ruined Dreams, Reclaiming Wasted Years*.

B&H is the trade book publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In her book, which is based on the Book of Joel, Coleman looks for the good in the crises life hands them. Highlighting the destruction caused by locusts, Coleman mixes the Old Testament narrative with contemporary stories from women who have dealt with pain and loss.

"The message of the book is that we will all face loss. We will all make mistakes that we think are irreversible, but that God will use that not only for our good, but for the good of those who come after us," said Coleman, who lives in northern California.

"Throughout history, not only in the Book of Joel, but in the women's lives that I highlight in the book, the message is that God — in unexpected and surprising ways — has restored the years and paid back for the losses."

In the book, Coleman includes some of her own experiences as a child, then

wife and mother woven into the stories of other women.

"Each of the stories really examines a different situation and a different response to loss and what they feel are wasted years," stories that "can really touch a broad number of people," Coleman said.

She said the women she writes about are "women who came into my life as God took me through my own process. So they were inspirations to me, and I pass down their stories to be encouragement to others."

Loss and grief are an integral part of life that shouldn't be ignored or simply pushed aside, Coleman said, so she urges people to be honest about their pain and sorrow.

"In faith, know that God is going to use this in a mighty and powerful way, and even though you still feel the pain, feel it in an honest way," Coleman said.

After the Locusts isn't a self-help book or a magic antidote to help people deal with their pain, she said. It is a book about learning to understand the overwhelming power of God's love and restoration.

"Just walk with God and let him walk beside you as you go through this, because he wants to partner with you," Coleman said.

"We're not alone, but he's not going to be up there with any magic dust either. It's a partnership."

"We need to get back to the biblical response to life, and we need to look at teachings of Joel and Jesus. We need to have a faith that the Lord is going to make something rich and beautiful. He makes beauty out of ashes," she pointed out.



Coleman